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A study on socio economic and personal profile of the floriculture workers

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Abstract
Floriculture sector attracts considerable attention concerning worker's profile due to inclusive potential of worker's employment. The present study was conducted in three districts (i.e. Fatehabaad, Hisar, Panipat) of Haryana state with the objective to study the socio economic and personal profile of the floriculture workers. Two floriculture units were selected from each district using simple random sampling technique and all the workers working in selected floriculture units were selected to study the socio economic and personal profile. Results reveal that women's participation was more than men in floriculture units. Almost all of the respondents belonged to Hindu religion (97.06%) and majority (52.94%) of the respondents belonged to scheduled caste category. Results also showed that the lack of availability of employment for educated people leads them to work as labor class.

Keywords: Floriculture sector, socio economic, personal profile, women's participation

Introduction
The expansion and growth of the floriculture industry magnify massive potential for generating significant worker's employment in farming activities in floricultural farms. In developing countries approximately 190,000 workers are employed in the cut flower business, mostly women workers which are possibly between 20-30% more for indirect jobs in transport, plastic, construction, commercial etc. sectors (David, 2002) [3]. According to the Turkish Ministry of Agriculture, approximately 25,000 workers directly and 300,000 workers are indirectly involved in the floricultural farm activities (Anonymous, 2015) [1]. The floricultural sector of Ethiopia has been able to create more than 139,000 job opportunities, of which women workers have taken more than 70% jobs (Admasu T, 2015) [2]. Traditional floriculture provide employment to 10,000 farm households and 80,000 farm labourers and 2.5 lakh small retailers and flower vendors in the state of Karnataka (Prakash, 2002) [6]. Floricultural sector creates more job opportunity for unskilled poor people, especially for women who are poor, illiterate and mostly marginalized from other job opportunity and hence forced to live a low standard of life (Fatuma, 2008) [4]. Therefore present study was conducted to understand the socio economic and personal profile of the floriculture workers in Haryana state.

Methodology
Field survey was carried out to study the socio economic and personal profile of the floriculture workers using interview schedule. Three districts (i.e. Fatehabad, Hisar and Panipat) of Haryana state were randomly selected from the districts where floriculture was being done at large scale. Out of each district, two floriculture units were selected through simple random sampling technique. Thus, total six floriculture farms were selected. All the workers working in six floriculture units were selected for present study. The data were suitably coded, tabulated and statistically analyzed to draw meaningful inferences.

Results
Gender: Findings in table reveals that female respondents were 64.29 percent, 61.90 percent and 42.11 percent in the Panipat, Fatehabad and Hisar district, respectively whereas 57.89 percent, 38.10 percent and 35.71 percent of the respondents were male in the Hisar, Fatehabad and Panipat districts, respectively. Hence, 57.35 percent of the respondents were female and 42.65 percent of the respondents were male out of the total studied sample.

Age: The results in Table show that 33.82 percent of the respondents belonged to age group of 18-28 years whereas 47.36 percent of the respondents were from Hisar district, 35.71 percent of the respondents were from Panipat district and 19.05 percent of the respondents were from Fatehabad district. About 38.24 percent of the respondents were found between age group of

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29-38 years out of them 46.43 percent of respondents were from Panipat district, 38.10 percent of respondents were from Fatehabad district and 26.32 percent of the respondents were from Hisar district. In the age group of 39-48 years, 42.85 percent of the respondents were from Fatehabad district, 26.32 percent of the respondents were from Hisar district and 17.86 percent of the respondents were from Panipat district.

Marital status: Out of total workers selected for present study, Majority (77.94 percent) of the respondents were married, 19.12 percent were unmarried and 2.94 percent of the respondents were widow. On the other hand district wise distribution of marital status was 80.95 percent, 14.29 percent and 4.76 percent of the respondents were married, unmarried and widow respectively in Fatehabad district and 78.95 percent and 21.05 percent of the respondent were married and unmarried respectively in Hisar district. In Panipat district distribution of marital status was 75.00 percent, 21.43 percent and 3.57 percent of the respondent were married, unmarried and widow respectively.

Religion: Almost all of the respondents belonged to Hindu religion (97.06%) and respondents belonged to Sikh and Muslim religion shared similar percentage (1.47%). In Hisar district, hundred percent of the respondents belonged to Hindu religion followed by 96.43 percent of the respondents in Panipat district and 95.24 percent of the respondents in Fatehabad district. Very few percentage of the respondents belonged to Sikh and Muslim religion i.e. 4.76 percent of the respondents in Fatehabad and 3.57 percent of the respondents in Panipat district.

Caste: Approximate by half (52.94%) of the respondents belonged to scheduled caste category (SC) followed by 17.65 percent of the respondents to other backward class category (OBC), 16.17 percent of the respondents to scheduled tribe category (ST) and 13.24 percent of the respondents to general category. In Fatehabad district, 47.62, 23.81, 19.05 and 9.52 percent of the respondents belonged to SC, OBC, general and ST category, respectively. In Hisar district 52.63 percent of the respondents belonged to SC, 21.05 percent of the respondents belonged to general category, 15.79 percent of the respondents belonged to OBC category and 10.53 percent of the respondents belonged to ST category while on the other hand 57.14 percent of the respondent belonged to SC category in Panipat district followed by twenty five percent of the respondents belonged to ST, 14.29 percent were from OBC and only 3.57 were from general category.

Type of family: Table unfold that 61.76 percent of the respondents were having nuclear family and 38.24 percent of the respondents were having joint family. Respondents were having nuclear family type in Panipat, Fatehabad and Hisar district were having percentage distribution as 67.86 percent, 61.90 percent and 52.63 percent of the respondents, respectively whereas regarding joint family type the results shows that 47.37 percent of the respondents were from Hisar district, 38.10 percent of the respondents were from Fatehabad district and 32.14 percent of the respondents were from Panipat district.

Size of family: Data in Table revealed that more than half (58.82%) of the respondents were having 7-9 members in family, out of them maximum were from Hisar district (73.68%) followed by in Fatehabad district (66.67%) and

Panipat district (42.86%). Further table unveiled that 30.88 percent of the respondents had 4-6 members in family out of them 42.86 percent of the respondents belonged to Panipat district, 28.57 percent of the respondents from Fatehabad district and 15.79 percent of the respondents from Hisar district. More than ten percent (10.30%) of the respondents were having upto three members in family, with 14.28 percent of the respondents in Panipat district, 10.53 percent of the respondents in Hisar district and 4.76 percent of the respondents in Fatehabad district.

Education: Findings regarding education reflect that one fourth of respondents (25.00%) were illiterate same number of percentages (25.00%) of the respondents were having middle level educational level followed by 17.65 percent of the respondents could read and write own names only to do signature on papers for official use, 14.71 percent of the respondents were having education up to senior secondary level, 11.76 percent of the respondents were having education up to secondary level, 4.41 percent of the respondents were having education up to primary level and 1.47 percent of the respondents were also having education up to graduation level. In Fatehabad district, 33.33 percent of the respondents obtained education up to middle level, 23.81 percent of the respondents could read and write and only 19.05 percent of the respondents were illiterate, 14.29 percent of the respondents obtained education up to senior secondary level and 9.52 percent of the respondents obtained education up to secondary level.

In Hisar district, 42.11 percent of the respondents were illiterate, followed by 26.32 percent of the respondents who were having education up to middle level, 15.78 percent of the respondents who were having education up to secondary level, 10.53 percent of the respondents could read and write and 5.26 percent of the respondents were having education up to primary level.

In Panipat district, one fourth of the respondents (25.00%) were educated upto senior secondary level. A same number of the respondents (17.86%) were illiterate, could read and write only and middle level. More than ten percent (10.71%) of the respondents were educated upto secondary level and a few respondents (7.14% and 3.57%) had their education upto primary level and graduation level, respectively.

Family occupation: Data regarding family occupation reveal that out of the total, more than half (54.41%) of the respondents' family occupation was labor. A same number (19.12%) of the respondents' family occupation was business and service whereas 7.35 percent of the respondents' family occupation was farming. Results in table also reveal that in Fatehabad district, 52.38 percent of the respondents' family occupation was labor followed by 23.81 percent, 14.29 percent and 9.52 percent of the respondents who's family occupation was service, business and farming, respectively.

In Hisar district, 57.89 percent and 21.05 percent of the respondents' family occupation was labor and business, respectively whereas 10.53 percent of the respondents' family occupation was farming and same number (10.53 %) of the respondents' family occupation was service. In Panipat district, 53.57 percent of the respondents' family occupation was labor while same number (21.43%) of the respondents' family occupation was business and service. Only 3.57 percent of the respondents' family occupation was farming.

Annual income of family: The annual income of the respondent's family had been presented in table. Less than half (48.53% and 42.65%) of the respondents of pooled sample were having income ranging Rs. 4,50,001-6,50,000/annum and Rs. 2,50,000-4,50,000/annum, respectively while only 8.82 percent of the respondents were having income ranging Rs. 6,50,001-8,50,000/ annum. In Fatehabad district, 57.14 percent, 28.57percent and 14.29 percent of the respondents were having income ranging Rs. 4,50,001-6,50,000/annum, Rs. 2,50,000-4,50,000/annum and Rs. 6,50,001-8,50,000/annum, respectively. Approximately half (52.63%) of the respondents in Hisar district were having income ranging Rs. 2,50,000-4,50,000/annum followed by 36.84 percent (Rs. 4,50,001-6,50,000/annum) and 10.53 percent (Rs. 6,50,001-8,50,000/annum). In Panipat district, half of the respondents were having income ranging Rs. 4,50,001-6,50,000/ annum) followed by 46.43 percent (Rs. 2,50,000-4,50,000/annum) and 3.57 percent (Rs. 6,50,001-8,50,000/annum).

Respondent's annual income: Out of the total, 41.18 percent of the respondents were having income ranging from Rs. 75,000-1,10,000/annum followed by 36.76 percent (Rs. 1,10,001-1,45,000/annum) and 22.06 percent (Rs. 1,45,001-1,80,000/annum).

Table 1: Socio economic and personal profile of the workers (n=68)

Variables	Fatehabad (n=21)	Hisar (n=19)	Panipat (n=28)	Total (n=68)
Gender				
Female	13 (61.90)	8 (42.11)	18 (64.29)	39 (57.35)
Male	8 (38.10)	11 (57.89)	10 (35.71)	29 (42.65)
Age (years)				
18-28	4 (19.05)	9 (47.36)	10 (35.71)	23 (33.82)
29-38	8 (38.10)	5 (26.32)	13 (46.43)	26 (38.24)
39-48	9 (42.85)	5 (26.32)	5 (17.86)	19 (27.94)
Marital status				
Married	17 (80.95)	15 (78.95)	21 (75.00)	53 (77.94)
Unmarried	3 (14.29)	4 (21.05)	6 (21.43)	13 (19.12)
Widow	1 (4.76)	-	1 (3.57)	2 (2.94)
Religion				
Hindu	20 (95.24)	19 (100.00)	27 (96.43)	66 (97.06)
Sikh	1 (4.76)	-	-	1 (1.47)
Muslim	-	-	1 (3.57)	1 (1.47)
Caste				
General	4 (19.05)	4 (21.05)	1 (3.57)	9 (13.24)
OBC	5 (23.81)	3 (15.79)	4 (14.29)	12 17.65)
SC	10 (47.62)	10 (52.63)	16 (57.14)	36 (52.94)
ST	2 (9.52)	2 (10.53)	7 (25.00)	11 (16.17)
Type of family				
Nuclear	13 (61.90)	10 (52.63)	19 (67.86)	42 (61.76)
Joint	8 (38.10)	9 (47.37)	9 (32.14)	26 (38.24)
Size of family				
Upto 3	1 (4.76)	2 (10.53)	4 (14.28)	7 (10.30)
4-6	6 (28.57)	3 (15.79)	12 (42.86)	21 (30.88)
7-9	14 (66.67)	14 (73.68)	12 (42.86)	40 (58.82)
Education				
Illiterate	4 (19.05)	8 (42.11)	5 (17.86)	17 (25.00)
Can read and write	5 (23.81)	2 (10.53)	5 (17.86)	12 (17.65)
Primary level	-	1 (5.26)	2 (7.14)	3 (4.41)
Middle level	7 (33.33)	5 (26.32)	5 (17.86)	17 (25.00)
Secondary level	2 (9.52)	3 (15.78)	3 (10.71)	8 (11.76)
Sr. secondary level	3 (14.29)	-	7 (25.00)	10 (14.71)
Graduation level	-	-	1 (3.57)	1 (1.47)
Family occupation				
Labor	11 (52.38)	11 (57.89)	15 (53.57)	37 (54.41)
Farming	2 (9.52)	2 (10.53)	1 (3.57)	5 (7.35)
Business	3 (14.29)	4 (21.05)	6 (21.43)	13 (19.12)
Service	5 (23.81)	2 (10.53)	6 (21.43)	13 (19.12)
Annual income of family (in rupees)				
2,50,000-4,50,000	6 (28.57)	10 (52.63)	13 (46.43)	29 (42.65)
4,50,001-6,50,000	12 (57.14)	7 (36.84)	14 (50.00)	33 (48.53)
6,50,001-8,50,000	3 (14.29)	2 (10.53)	1 (3.57)	6 (8.82)
Annual income of respondent (in rupees)				
75,000-1,10,000	9 (42.85)	7 (36.84)	9 (32.14)	25 (36.76)
1,10,001-1,45,000	8 (38.10)	9 (47.37)	11 (39.29)	28 (41.18)
1,45,001-1,80,000	4 (19.05)	3 (15.79)	8 (28.57)	15 (22.06)
Family possessions				
House *				
Owned	19 (90.48)	18 (94.74)	25 989.29)	62 (91.18)
Rented	2 (9.52)	1 (5.26)	3 (10.71)	6 (8.82)

Kaccha	2 (9.52)	3 (15.79)	13 (46.43)	18 (26.47)
Pucca	11 (52.38)	10 (52.63)	7 (25.00)	28 (41.18)
Both (*kaccha & pucca*)	8 (38.10)	6 (31.58)	8 (28.57)	22 (32.35)
Vehicle				
Bicycle	11 (52.38)	8 (42.11)	8 (28.57)	27 (39.71)
Two wheeler	6 (28.57)	6 (31.58)	4 (14.29)	16 (23.53)
Three wheeler	-	1 (5.26)	1 (3.57)	2 (2.94)
Land holding				
Upto two acres	1 (4.76)	-	2 (7.14)	3 (4.41)
Animal				
Buffalo	2 (9.52)	2 (10.53)	5 (17.86)	9 (13.24)
Cow	1 (4.76)	2 (10.53)	3 (10.71)	5 (7.35)
Goat	1 (4.76)	-	1 (3.57)	2 (2.94)

Figures in parenthesis indicate percentage *Multiple responses

In Fetahabad district, 42.85 percent of the respondents were having income ranging from Rs. 75,000-1,10,000/annum followed by 38.10 percent (Rs. 1,10,001-1,45,000/annum) and 19.05 percent (Rs. 1,10,001-1,45,000/annum). Less than half (47.37%) of the respondents in Hisar district were having income ranging from Rs. 1,10,001-1,45,000/annum and minimum (15.79%) number of the respondents were having income ranging from Rs. 1,45,001-1,80,000/annum. In Panipat district, 39.29 percent of the respondents were having income ranging from Rs. 1,10,001-1,45,000/annum and 28.57 percent of the respondents were having income ranging from Rs. 1,45,001-1,80,000/annum.

Family possessions: A house, vehicle, land holding and domestic animals were considered as meager possessions of the studied sample and is presented in table.

House: Findings in table illustrate that majority (91.18%) of the respondents were having their own house and very few (8.82%) of the respondents were living on rent while 41.18 percent of the respondents were found to be living in pucca houses and 26.47 percent of the respondents were living in kaccha houses whereas 32.35 percent of the respondents were having both type of houses i.e. kaccha and pucca.

Vehicle: Table discloses that 39.71 percent of the respondents owned bicycle, 23.53 percent of the respondents owned two wheeler and 2.94 percent of the respondents owned three wheeler. Maximum (52.38%) number of the respondents were having bicycle, were from Fatehabad district and minimum (3.57% and 5.26%) number of the respondents who owned three wheeler were from Panipat district and Hisar district, respectively.

Land holding: Very few (4.41%) of the respondents in total sample were having land upto two acres; 7.14 percent of the respondents having land were from Panipat district while 1.47 percent of the respondents having land were from Fatehabad district.

Animal: More than ten percent (13.24%) of the respondents were having buffalo while 7.35 percent and 2.94 percent of the respondents were having cow and goat, respectively. Majority (17.86%) of the respondents were having buffalo from Panipat district.

Discussion
Results showed that in pooled sample 57.35 percent of the respondents were female and 42.65 percent of the respondents were male. Thippaiah (2005) also found that the employment of women labour in flower cultivation was higher than men.

Results of present study showed that more than thirty percent (33.82%) of the respondents belonged to age group of 18-28 years whereas 38.24 percent of the respondents were found between age group of 29-38 years and 27.94 percent of the respondents belonged to age group of 39-48 years. Majority (77.94 percent) of the respondents were married. Almost all of the respondents belonged to Hindu religion (97.06%) and majority (52.94 %) of the respondents belonged to scheduled caste category. Prakash (2002) [6] conducted a study on high tech floriculture, sustainability and food security issues and found that approximately 72 percent of the workers engaged in Rose cultivation were in the age group of less than 25 years and 50 per cent of the total workers belonged to dalit caste. Gahlot (2017) also found that schedule caste workers were in majority as they contributed 67.92 percent of the total sample followed by workers (27.61%) who belonged to other backward class (OBC) category. Now a days joint family system is being replaced by nuclear family system and similar trend was found in pooled sample in present study as majority (61.76%) of the respondents were having nuclear family. Findings regarding education reflect that there was a lot of variation in the level of education of the respondents while one fourth of respondents (25.00%) were illiterate whereas few respondents were having education up to secondary level (11.76%) and graduation level (1.47%) also. This situation shows that the lack of availability of employment for educated people leads them to work as labor class. Out of the total, more than half (54.41%) of the respondents' family occupation was labor, among them very few (8.82%) respondents even didn't possess their own house even though 26.47 percent of the respondents lived in *kaccha* houses which were made up of clay, mud, stones and plant materials. Very few (4.41%) of the respondents were having land upto two acres and 13.24 percent of the respondents in total sample were having buffalo as domestic animal.

Conclusion
Out of the total studied sample, 57.35 percent of the respondents were female and majority of the respondents belonged to the age group of 29-38 years. Almost all the respondents (97.06%) belonged to Hindu religion and approximately half (52.94%) of the respondents belonged to scheduled caste category (SC). Majority of the respondents (61.76%) were having nuclear family and 38.24 percent of the respondents were having joint family. More than half (54.41%) of the respondents' family occupation was labor and 8.82 percent respondents even didn't possess their own house. Results showed a very distressing situation that due to lack of availability of employment for educated people leads them to work as labourer.

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